

St. Christopher's Normal and Industrial Parish School
900 Fifth Avenue
Columbus
Muscogee County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-2291

HABS
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108-COLM,
36-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL PARISH SCHOOL

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Location: 900 Fifth Avenue
Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia

Significance: Architecture: This annex is an example of school architecture in the black community at the beginning of the 20th century. Extremely simple in design, it suggests that functionalism was used as a financial necessity to create a school to teach local black residents. Education: This building is significant for educational reasons, as it served as an early church-affiliated school (which was apparently private) in Columbus' black community.

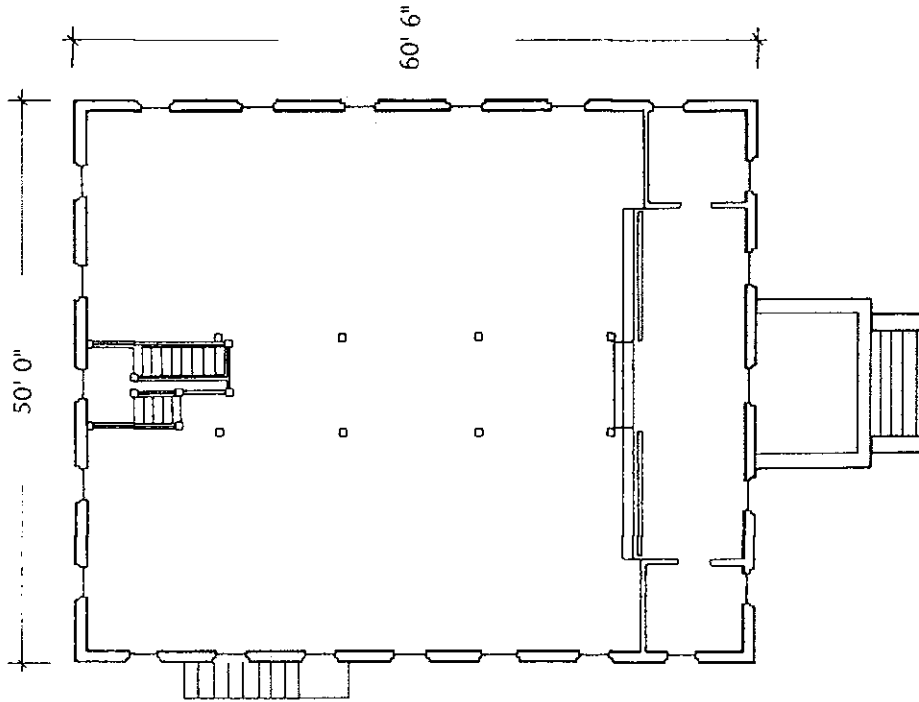
Description: Romanesque Revival; two stories, rectangular flat roof, brick laid in common bond, composition roof; front facade details consist of rounded arch lintel windows with radiating voussoir, string courses of corbelled brick between first and second floor, and second floor and stepped parapet; one-story porch over central entrance has round arch, radiating voussoir opening with crenelated parapet. Situated among Victorian and Greek Revival residences and c. 1900 commercial buildings; landscaping consists of grass and shrubbery; fair condition.

History: This structure was built in 1916 on a lot purchased earlier by St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. Episcopal Bishop C. Kinlock Nelson, of Atlanta, and local black rector J. Stewart Braithwaite were instrumental in establishing the school. The school stopped operating about 1951, but the church continued until 1967. Intended to be only a school for blacks, it also functioned for much of its history as a church or mission. In later years, the First African Baptist Church (which is located just across the street) purchased the property and converted the building into a child care center.

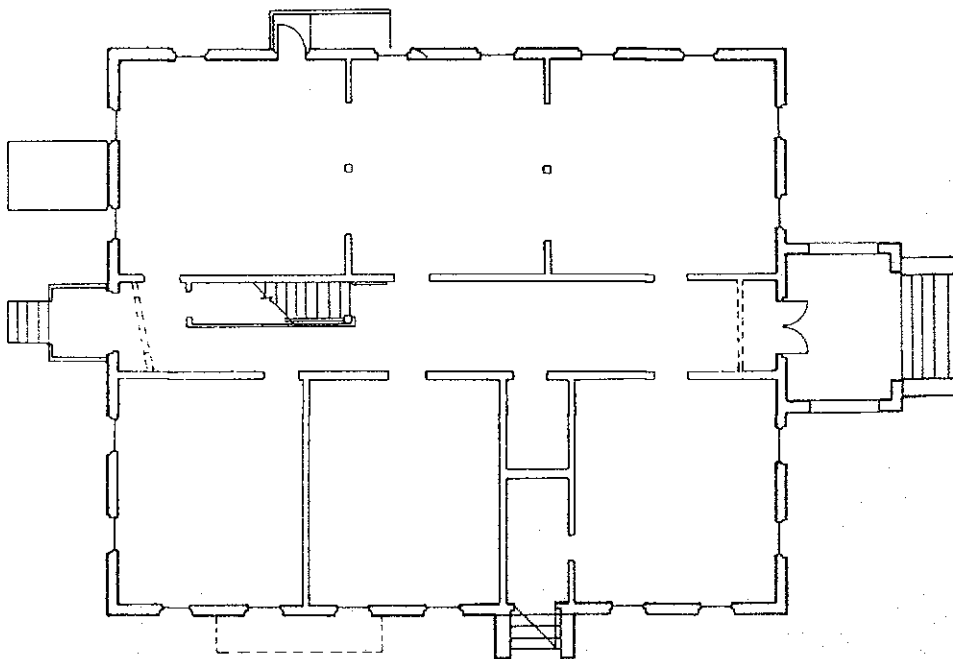
Sources: Georgia Architectural and Historical Properties Inventory Form No. 437b; Columbus City Directories (1914-1967); Muscogee County deed records; Sanborn Insurance Maps.

Historian: John S. Lupold, Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc., April 15, 1994.

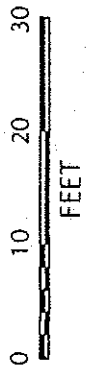
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SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



S. CHRISTOPHER'S NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL PARISH SCHOOL